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Letter dated 28 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 March 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Şafak **Göktürk**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 27 March 2000 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 8 February 2000 (A/54/743-S/2000/100) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot Representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and of "the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 27 January 2000 (A/54/728-S/2000/66, annex). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right whatsoever.

As reiterated in my previous letters, such allegations by the Greek Cypriot administration stem from the false pretence that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The reality in Cyprus, however, is that there exist in the island two politically equal peoples and their respective sovereign states. It is the chronic denial of this reality which renders the Cyprus question intractable.

The Greek Cypriot administration, supported by Greece, is continuing with its dangerous military build-up in South Cyprus, which exacerbates the crisis of confidence between the two peoples, thus making it difficult to achieve progress in preparing the ground for reconciliation in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Filelefteros* reported on 18 March 2000 that the necessary funds have been earmarked by the Greek Cypriot administration for the purchase of a second modern radar system with a range of 300 km. The Greek Cypriot dailies *Politis* and *Mahi* both reported, on 3 and 4 March 2000, respectively, that, in the context of the "Joint Military Doctrine", Greece had donated to South Cyprus a patrol vessel equipped with modern weapons and communications systems. *Politis* further reported on 22 March 2000 that the Greek Cypriot administration intends to purchase two additional patrol vessels, possibly from Greece. *Mahi*, on 21 March 2000, further reported that the Greek Cypriot administration is purchasing four Bell type helicopters in addition to the four Bell type and three Gazelle helicopters already in possession of the Greek Cypriot National Guard. *Politis* reported on 21 March 2000 that four Russian-made short-range TOR-M1 missiles will arrive in South Cyprus within the next month, in addition to the two TOR-M1 missiles which Greece will provide to the Greek Cypriot administration later this year. *Haravgi* dated 11 March 2000 reported that the Greek Cypriot Ministry of Defence is recruiting professional military personnel from Greece for a period of five years, to operate high-tech weapons systems as well as armoured vehicles and tanks.

The policy of escalation pursued by the Greek Cypriot administration, as well as its ongoing campaign of misinformation against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, demonstrate that the Greek Cypriot side is far from coming to terms with

the current reality in the island, i.e., the existence of two peoples and their respective states.

We call upon you and all those who are interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus question to direct their efforts towards convincing the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its policy of misinformation and to work towards preparing the ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement between the two states in Cyprus. It is hoped that the Greek Cypriot side will be induced to adopt a fresh and constructive attitude, essential for the success of the current process of proximity talks which are due to resume in May.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus